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Publications

## ENHANCING THE FORESTS OF INDIAN LANDS




*Forest  
Management  
Program of  
Indian Lands  
1985-1990*



Forestry  
Canada

Forêts  
Canada



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Serge Légaré/Forestry Canada

*A NEW EXPERIENCE  
IN FOREST  
MANAGEMENT*

THE NATIVE COMMUNITIES  
OF QUEBEC

To promote native autonomy in matters of land management, Forestry Canada, through the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands, has provided native communities with the necessary human and financial resources to implement numerous forest management projects. In many cases, the various forestry activities - conversion cutting, reforestation, natural regeneration, release cutting, forest road construction - have fostered local expertise in silvicultural operations.

In establishing the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands, Forestry Canada made a commitment to support native communities at all levels of forest management. Program objectives therefore went beyond a mere increase in forest production. The following pages highlight the Program's major achievements, especially regarding the transfer of knowledge to the concerned populations, the simplification of forest conservation and management methods, and the training of native workers to take the future of their forests into their own hands.

Affaires indiennes  
et du Nord Canada

Région du Québec







Allen Gagnon/Forestry Canada

LIVING ENVIRONMENT,  
L SOURCE OF  
E ECONOMIC  
L PRODUCTION



## Indian Lands Area and Population

Territory	Area of Accessible Productive Forest (hectares)	Population in 1986	Joined the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands
Mistassini	68 344	1 967	yes
Waswanipi	32 800	648	yes
Betsiamites	19 020	1 752	yes
River Desert	15 140	794	yes
Waskaganish	7 355	1 179	yes
Doncaster (1)	7 149	(1)	yes
Restigouche	3 325	896	yes
Kahnawake	3 288	5 279	yes
Weymontachie	2 885	570	yes
Kawawachikamach	2 514	395	no
Timiskaming	2 173	306	yes
Mingan	1 703	323	no
St-Régis (2)	1 150	3 395	no
Obedjiwan	802	1 007	yes
Manouane	723	1 065	yes
Mashteuiats	673	1 340	yes
Odanak	451	200	no
Maliotenam	300	683	yes
Lac Simon	238	554	yes
Kanesatake	189	661	yes
Withworth	161	115	no
Maria (3)	139	375	no
Nemiscau	n/a	205	yes
Other (2)	289	10 096	no
TOTAL	170 811	33 805	

- (1) Joint territory of the Kahnawake and Kanesatake reserves  
 (2) Estimated in relation to the total forest area  
 (3) Joined the Eastern Quebec Development Plan

Sources: Forestry Canada  
 Statistics Canada (for populations)

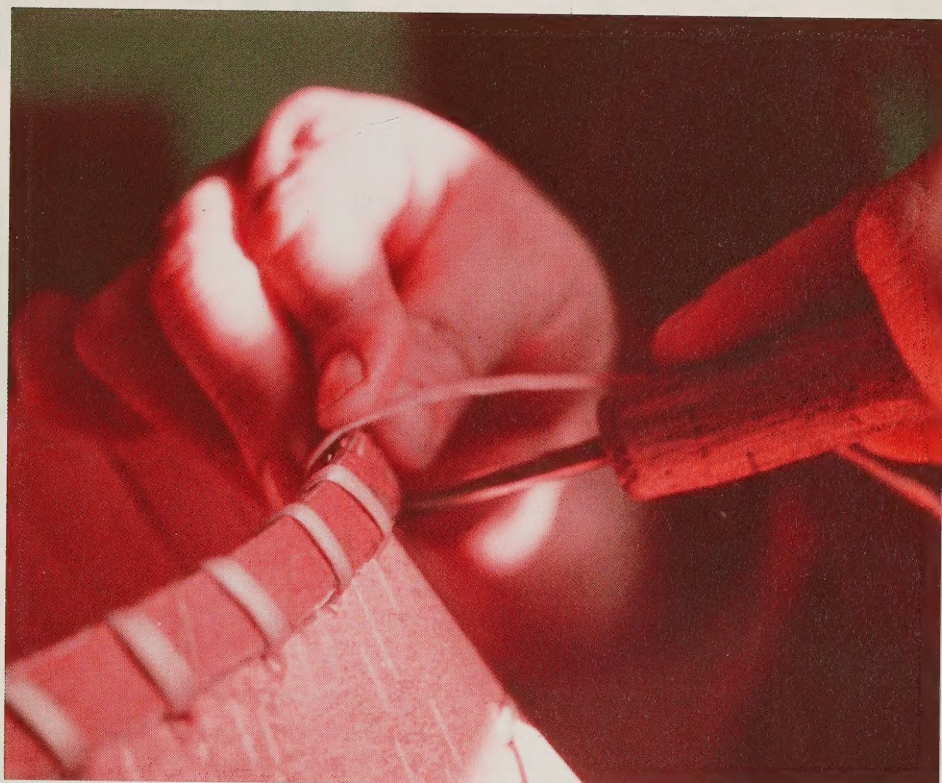
For the native peoples of Quebec and Canada, the forest has always been the backdrop to everyday life. For thousands of years, Amerindians have maintained close ties with the forest. Not only did they derive their means of subsistence directly from the forest, but they also used it as the base of an entire culture and their spiritual beliefs. Today, native peoples are becoming increasingly aware of the deterioration of their forests and recognize the need to protect and manage them for various purposes.

Approximately 170 000 hectares of Quebec's productive and accessible forests are currently located on Indian lands. The Forest Management Program of Indian Lands was created to improve the potential of these forests. The program has now been implemented in more than 95 % of this area. Concurrently, the communities of some 18 900 Amerindians, making up about 55 % of the province's native population, have become involved in the program.

Various means have been placed at the disposal of the native communities to help them take charge of forest management on their respective lands. These means aim at:

- 1- increased knowledge of forest resources through inventories and management plans;
- 2- the implementation of silvicultural operations such as conversion cutting, site preparation and planting;
- 3- the promotion of technology transfer and the improvement of native peoples' forest management skills.

Over the past five years, Forestry Canada has invested \$4 million in projects completed under the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands. This sum has been used primarily to conduct studies, finance silvicultural operations and provide the expertise required to carry out these operations. During this period, the partnership between the native peoples and Forestry Canada has become more flexible and has adapted to the needs of the various communities.



Serge Jauvin/DIAND

CONFIDENCE,  
SKILLS,  
AUTONOMY



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**T**he forests located on Indian reserves are generally in poor condition due to overcutting, insufficient regeneration and stand depletion. This deterioration, combined with a lack of skilled labour to re-establish the forests, has reduced the number of jobs available in the forestry sector.

The Forest Management Program of Indian Lands was created just in time since, by 1985, there was an urgent need to manage forests so that they would reach their full potential. The Program would enable native peoples to create jobs while renewing their precious resource.

Historically, native peoples have always counted on the forest for activities such as hunting, fishing and recreation, and for supplies such as firewood, lumber and craft materials.

Thus, implementation of the Program raised certain fears, particularly with regard to silvicultural techniques used in timber production. Some native peoples wanted birch stands preserved, since birch is used in making snowshoes and other products; others wanted to preserve aspen stands, because they attract beavers. And everyone wanted to safeguard the traditional use of other forest resources, such as maple trees and blueberries.

A major awareness campaign was needed to convince the native peoples that forest use could be both planned and varied. A number of information sessions and consultations revealed the native peoples' desire for multi-purpose management. Band councils learned about basic silvicultural concepts and the value of their forest resources. As a result, 16 communities have to date participated in the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands and benefited from its support. Of these 16 communities, 12 have undertaken large-scale forest management projects.

The results of this first five-year phase are significant: the Program has created the equivalent of 125 one-year jobs and generated direct earnings of \$2.1 million for native peoples. Long-term estimates show that the allowable cut on Indian lands could double. In addition to these direct results, the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands has proved to be a catalyst for native socioeconomic development as a result of off-reserve forest management contracts.

Several native communities have acquired greater confidence in their ability to take charge of their economic growth. The creation of companies committed to forest management and the increased profitability of certain silvicultural activities bear witness to the new vitality in the forestry sector managed by Canada's native peoples. Indeed, hundreds of new jobs have been created in recent years!

Because of the training silvicultural workers received under the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands, native peoples have been able to significantly increase their forest management skills. These skills were quickly recognized off the reserves and have led to additional spin-offs for the communities in terms of jobs and revenue. The outlook is excellent, especially regarding the major tree-planting operations planned for public forests.



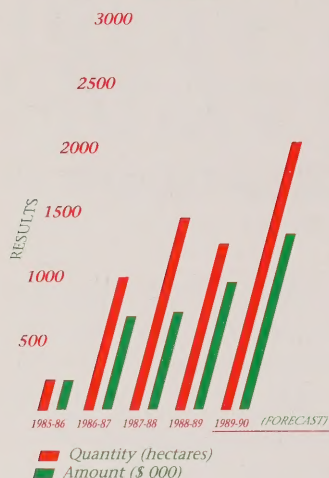


# *FIVE YEARS*

## *AT A GLANCE*

- 1985-1986**
- Information and familiarization with administrative procedures.
  - Eleven communities join the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands.
  - Completion of management plans.
  - Total expenditures of \$235 200 and creation of 26 seasonal jobs.
- 1986-1987**
- Management plans completed and new projects begun on 1 039 hectares.
  - Participation of 12 communities and the Atikamekw<sup>1</sup> Council.
  - Increased interest of native peoples in silviculture.
  - Total expenditures of \$696 400 and creation of 158 seasonal jobs.
- 1987-1988**
- Stepping up of forestry projects (1 493 hectares).
  - Deployment of technical teams.
  - Better quality work and increased worker productivity.
  - Acquisition of expertise and off-reserve recognition.
  - Total expenditures of \$733 400 and creation of 130 seasonal jobs.
- 1988-1989**
- Improved technical supervision.
  - Completion of silvicultural operations in 13 communities (1 299 hectares).
  - Training of native forestry workers.
  - Total expenditures of \$984 000 and creation of 170 seasonal jobs.
  - Creation of 6 native corporations and procurement of off-reserve contracts as a result of the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands.
- 1989-1990**  
(ongoing)
- Completion of silvicultural operations (2 110 hectares and 200 seasonal jobs).
  - Evaluation of operations by outside consultants.
  - Consultation with 13 communities.
  - Training of forestry workers in 5 communities.
  - Total expenditures of \$1 349 400.
  - Off-reserve contracts procured as a result of the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands.

# SUMMARY OF RESULTS



## GENERAL BALANCE SHEET 1985-1990 — SUMMARY BY ACTIVITY

ACTIVITIES	1985-1986		1986-1987		1987-1988		1988-1989		1989-1990*		1985-1990	
	Quantity	Amount (\$)	Quantity	Amount (\$)	Quantity	Amount (\$)	Quantity	Amount (\$)	Quantity	Amount (\$)	Quantity	Amount (\$)
Conversion cutting (ha)	32	8 320	301	102 173	104	79 079	129	53 018	211	107 140	777	349 730
Land preparation (ha)	56	14 160	435	92 043	860	126 312	516	94 446	937	195 154	2 804	522 115
Reforestation (seedlings) (ha)	91 000 (36)	12 740	312 001 (127)	53 497	1 025 081 (447)	138 644	1 289 568 (614)	181 039	1 826 750 (766)	257 124	4 544 400 (1990)	643 044
Seedling tending (ha)	19	6 900	82	22 412	10	2 250	10	3 605	108	29 463	229	64 630
Stand tending (ha)	99	64 577	94	56 000	73	38 815	29	11 855	89	50 344	384	221 591
Forest road system (km)	—	—	15.7	72 183	6.7	32 099	22.6	132 599	6.7	18 485	51.6	255 366
Management plan, study (ha)	—	85 811	—	115 383	—	15 500	—	16 844	—	6 000	—	239 538
Technical expertise	—	42 700	—	130 448	—	257 661	—	386 236	—	597 402	—	1 414 447
Adm., management, accounting	—	—	—	39 956	—	43 040	—	62 558	—	88 278	—	233 832
Other (lot lines, cones, training)	—	—	—	12 313	—	—	—	41 809	—	—	—	54 122
<b>TOTAL (ha)</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>235 208</b>	<b>1 039</b>	<b>696 408</b>	<b>1 493</b>	<b>733 400</b>	<b>1 299</b>	<b>984 009</b>	<b>2 111</b>	<b>1 349 390</b>	<b>6 185</b>	<b>3 998 415</b>

\* forecast

Since 1985, the silvicultural operations carried out under the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands have steadily increased in quantity and quality. The budget allocated for technical supervision has progressively increased, ensuring adequate technical follow-up and continuous improvement in the quality of the projects implemented.





Norge, Bauhinia

IN THE  
*C*OMMUNITIES

# Atikamekw Sipi

# Manouane

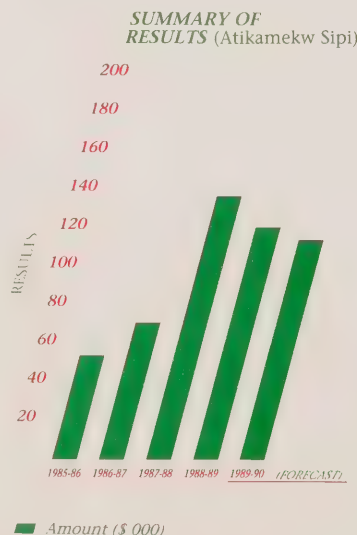
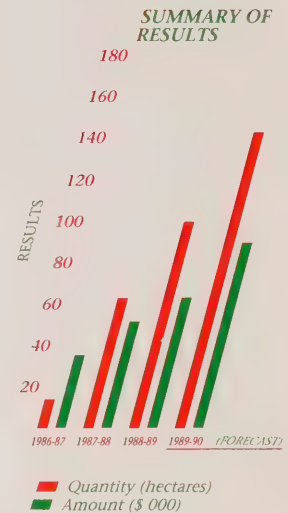


Through the Council of the Atikamekw nation (Atikamekw Sipi), the communities of Manouane, Obedjiwan and Weymontachie established a highly efficient joint forestry service. However, the limited areas of these reserves (700, 800 and 2900 hectares of productive and accessible forest respectively) alone could not support the communities' economic growth. Thus, the major contribution of the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands has been in training a qualified labour force capable of working off the reserves. This off-reserve activity has served as a springboard for significant economic growth in the communities.

Together, the three communities are the champions of reforestation, with 6.5 million seedlings planted off their reserves in 1989, providing work for approximately 100 people. Off-reserve contracts and support from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs enabled the communities to acquire three skidders, further reinforcing their ability to offer their services in other regions.

Along with this remarkable success, the Atikamekws have begun to take charge of managing their own forests. The Forest Management Program of Indian Lands has provided them with funds to hire native forestry workers and has sparked a major economic and social awakening, resulting in service exchanges between the bands and greater solidarity within the nation.

Forest operations in Manouane have converted depleted stands into regeneration zones. Access to forest management sectors has been improved through the construction of forest roads. Because of an adapted management plan, the silvicultural operations did not affect the two sugar bushes exploited using traditional methods, a custom important to the Manouane population. Through the Forest Management Program of In-



dian Lands, forest workers have been trained, and their skills, especially in planting, are now being put to use off the reserve. Even Manouane school children have been educated in forest management, and a forest interpretation centre is being planned for them. The residents of Manouane are hoping for a second phase in the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands that would place more emphasis on training and technology transfer.

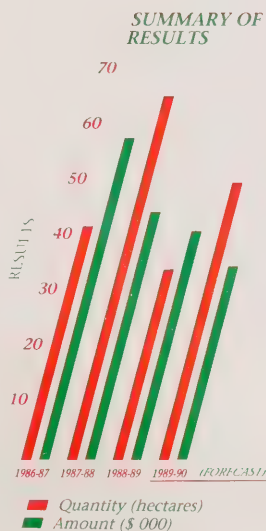




S. L. Lévesque/Forêt Canada

# Obedjiwan

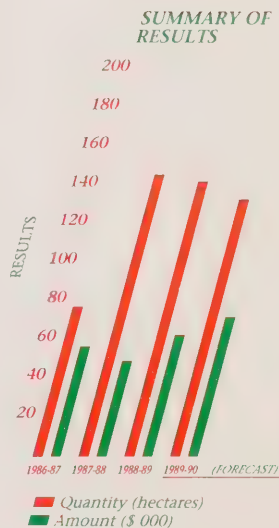
The Obedjiwan's forested land has been less affected than other Amerindian forests, but management projects were nonetheless implemented. The construction of forest roads have made the resource accessible, and the activities have contributed to the training of skilled workers. Silvicultural projects have resulted in wind-fall recovery and the reforestation of unproductive lands. Certain stands also underwent precommercial thinning.



# Weymontachie

Once adequate forest roads were built to access lands earmarked for forest management, operations to renew production in non-regenerated burnovers and convert depleted stands into productive zones were carried out.

The people of Weymontachie hope that the range of eligible activities will be broadened under a renewed program to emphasize integrated and multi-purpose resource management. The community is therefore planning a demonstration forest to increase forest management knowledge among young Atikamekws.



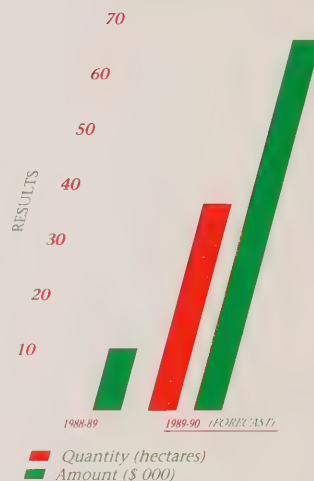
Serge Légaré/Forêt Canada

# Lac Simon



The Algonquins of Lac Simon, whose manageable forest covers 240 hectares, implemented their silvicultural intervention plan in 1988. Their depleted forest needed to be redeveloped and the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands was seen as a major asset in reaching this objective. The Algonquins formed a forest committee, and operations were entrusted to a native entrepreneur who hired his own workers. Depleted stand conversion, precommercial thinning and forest road construction are among the operations carried out to date. These operations contribute in particular to training workers who will subsequently be able to find jobs off the reserve.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS



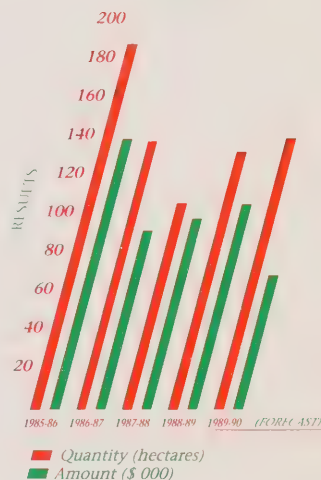




# River Desert

With a vast manageable forest covering 15 000 hectares, the River Desert community does not depend directly on its forest as an economic activity. The Band Council defrayed the costs of a management plan in 1984, before the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands came into force. The Program's contribution to this native community focusses primarily on reorienting logging techniques. These were previously left to the initiative of private entrepreneurs. The main silvicultural operations completed to date have involved conversion cutting, site preparation, reforestation and stand tending.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS





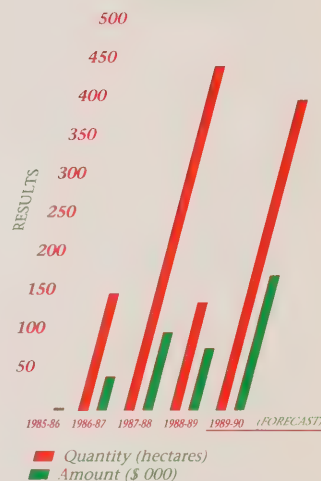
Rene Labbe/Forestry Canada

# Mistassini

The productive forest of Mistassini covers over 68 000 hectares, ranking first among Quebec's Indian-land forests. The management plan for this forest estimates potential production at 125 000 cubic metres of timber a year. Silvicultural operations have been implemented under the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands.

Since the forest is mature, the required work consists in preparing the land and planting seedlings once cutting has been completed. The community nevertheless intends to harvest only part of its resources, since extensive clear cutting can lead to a decrease in wildlife resources already threatened by intensive harvesting. In 1988, the Band Council formed a forest corporation to manage forest programs. If more funds are set aside for planning, a larger number of projects may be carried out in the future.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS



Rene Labbe/Forestry Canada

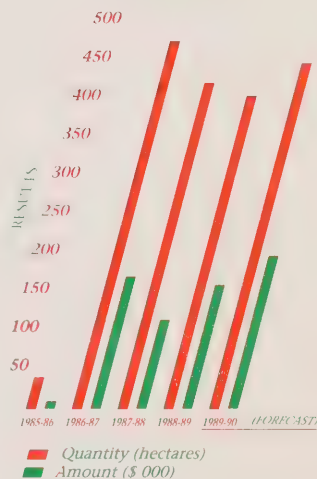


# Waswanipi



With 32 800 manageable hectares, Waswanipi has the second largest Indian-land forest in Quebec. Site preparation and reforestation operations have been carried out here through the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands. Following the signing of the James Bay Agreement, Waswanipi grew rapidly. It is now felt that industrial processing projects could be profitable ventures. The community has learned about forest management and, henceforth, harvesting on the community's lands could automatically entail reforestation. Despite certain labour problems, approximately 500 000 seedlings were planted on the reserve in 1989. Major reforestation contracts were also obtained off the reserve. Finally, should operations on lands under provincial jurisdiction become eligible for funding under the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands, approximately 400 additional hectares could be reforested each year over the next five years.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS



Allen Gagnon/Forestry Canada

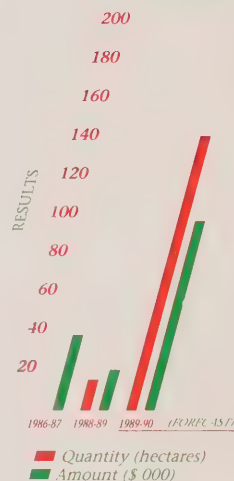


# Restigouche

Between 1983 and 1987, silvicultural operations were carried out on the Restigouche community's land under the Eastern Quebec Development Plan; in 1987, the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands took over. A quality forest management plan was established and silvicultural operations covering 152 hectares have been carried out to date. Restigouche's native peoples are expected to participate more actively in improving their forest heritage, and the support of the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands should enable them to attain their forestry and socioeconomic objectives.

Although recent, the community's participation in the program has enabled the native peoples to complete operations primarily dealing with stand tending. Other silvicultural activities, such as conversion cutting, site preparation and reforestation, have also been carried out

SUMMARY OF RESULTS



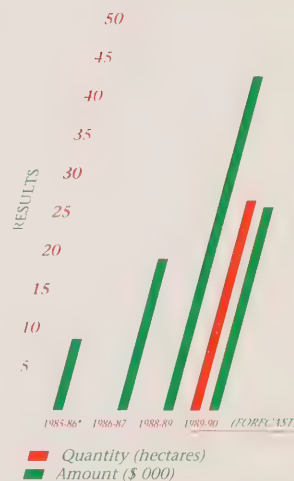




# Doncaster

This forested area covers over 7 000 hectares and is managed by the Kahnawake and Kanesatake reserves. It offers a substantial allowable cut in hardwood species. However, the two communities concerned believe that management of the Doncaster forest should place greater emphasis on preserving the wildlife habitat rather than on attaining timber production objectives. A few small-scale thinning and reforestation projects have been initiated under the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands. Native workers have been trained, with projects carried out under the supervision of a technical team from River Desert. Given the Doncaster communities' expectations, the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands should direct future projects towards more integrated forest management.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS



\* Includes the Kahnawake and Kanesatake management plans

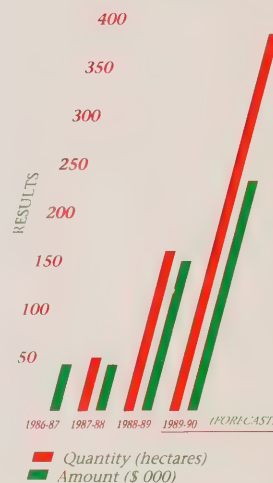




# Betsiamites

With a manageable area of 19 000 hectares, the forest constitutes the primary resource and main industry of Betsiamites. The Band Council created a company responsible for managing all of the reserve's forest activities. Every year, approximately 15 native people register in training courses and all are proud of the program's continued development over the past five years. Unlike previous years, logging is now profitable. The Forest Management Program of Indian Lands has enabled the native people of Betsiamites to carry out most of the silvicultural operations required by their management plan, namely site preparation, stand tending and reforestation. The funds allocated under the program during these first five years have enabled the native peoples to increase forest productivity as well as their interest in forest management.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS





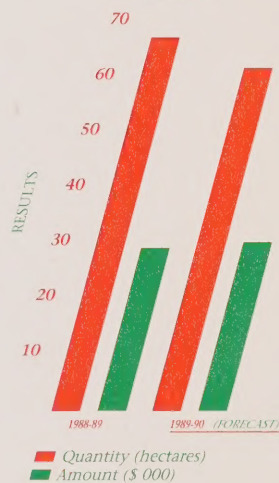


Serge Légaré/Forestry Canada

# Maliotenam

A management plan was carried out by Forestry Canada for this small, 300-hectare forest in 1988. Stand conversion, reforestation and thinning projects were completed in two years. A forest engineer was hired in 1989 to ensure follow-up and train workers. Given the small size of the reserve's forest, residents are banking on obtaining silviculture contracts off the reserve, especially for clearing land expropriated for electrical lines. A non-profit corporation will soon be created to manage the forest and off-reserve projects. During the summer of 1989, forty workers and a native team leader completed two off-reserve contracts. The Forest Management Program of Indian Lands has become a springboard for native workers' training and employment.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS



Serge Légaré/Forestry Canada

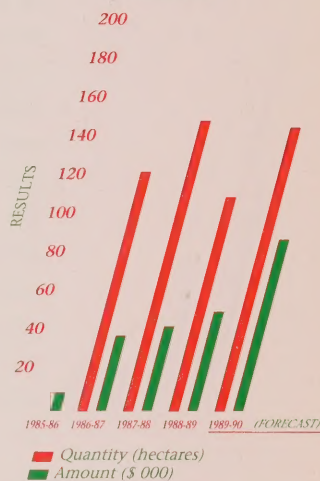
# Mashteuiats



Serge Légaré/Forestry Canada

The Mashteuiats community of Lac Saint-Jean at Pointe-Bleue has 670 hectares of manageable forest, most of which is divided into 25 private properties. A forest co-operative was formed by the Band Council in 1981. The reserve was one of the first to join the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands. Projects involving depleted stand conversion, reforestation, plantation weeding and forest road construction have been carried out. A Montagnais forest engineer has been on the job from the outset of the Program. Training courses have been regularly organized for silvicultural workers for several years and 10 workers return each year to carry out operations. Moreover, the co-operative obtained contracts to complete off-reserve projects. It is hoped that in the future, the Program will stress the construction of forest roads to open the southwest section of the territory.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS



## Other Communities

Smaller projects were carried out in other native communities under the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands. This is especially true for the Algonquins of Timiskaming and the Crees of Nemiscau and Waskaganish, where approximately 60 hectares of land were mechanically prepared for reforestation and over 85 000 seedlings were planted.



Serge Légaré/Forestry Canada







Canada

